

From: Doug Mason
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

From what I read on the proposed statement, it is only barely lifting a finger to fix the damage to the industry caused by them. This really only gives the OEMs the ability to sell a computer with a non-MS operating system, and could also dual boot. But the developers aren't helped much at all, there are no damages that Microsoft have to pay for how they hurt the companies in competition or the consumer. And as for opening up the APIs it is only going to be distributed by the MSDN, that isn't enough because they could just stash the code to the 3/4 or so of the network that is by subscription only, which in turn helps Microsoft more than it hurts it, because they will have access first, and if the competition wants to build applications that will integrate with Windows at the level that the MS products do, then it would mean paying them for it. As for the Technical Committee, it is too small for one, how much of Microsoft's source code, memos, ect.. could actually be read through with the attention that they deserve? It should be at least ten people, because Microsoft is a very large corporation and I would think produce an very large amount of documentation. And with the language that weeds out just about every "expert in software design and programming" that are out there. I think that this should be changed at least to have microsoft to be forced to open their apis with no strings attached, to the entire world to view, if not the source code for the windows operating systems themselves, so that at least the competition will actually stand a chance against them, because with the present situation, and even if this settlement goes through, Microsoft will be too large to contend with by any single company, most of the competitors either become a part of Microsoft, or the companies die as a result of the microsoft product being forced upon the consumer. I hope that this settlement becomes what the Information Technology industry needs in order to regain the momentum that it had lost over the past year, and that everyone realizes that most of what is good for microsoft is bad for the industry in terms of competition.

Sincerely,
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